



NCA&CS News Release

North Carolina Department of
Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Sign-up under way for NCFarmID; program lets livestock producers register for a national premises ID number

RALEIGH -- The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services recently unveiled NCFarmID, the state's part of the National Animal Identification System that is being implemented to track the movement of livestock in the event of an animal disease outbreak.

"This new program is voluntary, but there are a number of reasons why North Carolina producers should sign up," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "The bottom line is we want to be able to keep domestic and international markets open to our products. Maintaining consumer confidence is a critical part of that equation, and the ability of the industry to track an animal back to its herd of origin is the best way to rapidly address a disease incident and reassure consumers."

The national system will complement and enhance the tracking capabilities the state currently has through the NCDA&CS Veterinary Division's database.

NCDA&CS staff will meet with a number of industry groups and associations statewide to explain the program, answer questions and sign up producers interested in obtaining a national ID number.

Following is the meeting schedule:

- **March 8**, 8 p.m., Caswell County Cattleman's Association, Ag Center, Yanceyville;
- **March 9**, 10 a.m., Albemarle Area Beef Conference, Nixon's Catering, Edenton;
- **March 10**, 7 p.m., Randolph Livestock Producers, Randolph Community College Learning Center, Asheboro;
- **March 14**, 6:30 p.m., Harnett County Livestock meeting, Front St. Café, Lillington;
- **March 15**, 6:30 p.m., Davie/Yadkin Counties Cattleman's Association, Deep Creek Farm, Yadkinville;
- **March 15**, 7 p.m., Guilford County Cattleman's Association, Guilford County Center, Greensboro;
- **March 29**, 6:30 p.m., Montgomery/Moore County Cattleman's Association, Ag Center, Troy;
- **March 31**, 6:30 p.m., Franklin County, County Extension Office, Louisburg;
- **April 5**, 6:30 p.m., Orange/Durham Cattleman's Association, Schley Grange, Schley;
- **April 12**, 6:30 p.m., Lee County Livestock Association, McSwain Extension Office, Sanford;

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- **April 14**, 7:30 p.m., Bladen County Livestock Association, Extension Center, Elizabethtown;
- **April 20**, 6:30 p.m., N.C. Beef Commission, Ryan's Steakhouse, Asheville;
- **May 3**, 7 p.m., Pender County Livestock Association, Pender County Extension Office, Burgaw;
- **May 3**, 8:30 p.m., Columbus County Goat Producers, Extension Office, Whiteville.

Initially, NCFarmID will focus on registering farms with beef or dairy cattle, sheep or goats. Producers can voluntarily fill out a registration form and return it to the Veterinary Division. Information being requested includes the farm name, type of animals on the premises and owner address and contact information. This information is consistent with what is provided to other USDA cooperative programs. There is no cost to register for a farm identification number.

Once the form has been received and the information entered into the national and state databases, the farm will be assigned an identification number that will be mailed to the producer.

"Having the information and number on file will complete the first of the three-phase program, and no other action is needed at this time. Individual animal tagging and identification will occur in the future," said Dr. Mary Ann McBride, NCFarmID program manager. "Registering for a number will not change the animal records that producers keep at this time."

The second phase of the program will involve having identification on individual animals or a group/lot ID of animals for interstate and intrastate commerce.

"We encourage as many producers as possible to go ahead and sign up for the program between now and the end of the year so there is no delay in receiving a premises number," said State Veterinarian Dr. David Marshall.

Since the program's rollout in February, response has been positive and more than 400 producers have signed up. Many are finding registration of their premises a necessary component of routine marketing efforts as companies are beginning to request source verification on animals.

Producers can download a registration form online at www.NCFarmID.com, or one can be obtained by calling (919) 807-4337. More information on the program can also be found at the Web site. The schedule for upcoming meetings is continually being updated. Please check back often for the latest list of events.

Groups interested in having an NCDA&CS employee make a presentation on this program can call the same number to check on scheduling.